

**Town of Vernon  
Hockanum River Linear Park Committee  
Minutes – May 24, 2019**

RECEIVED  
VERNON TOWN CLERK

19 JUL 31 AM 9:06

**Present:** Members: George Arthur, Ginny Gingras, Ann Letendre

Guest: Don Bellingham

(HRLP meeting called to order at 9:35 am by Chairman Ann Letendre)

**1. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes of previous meeting of March 22, 2019 were approved, motion by George, second by Ginny.

**2. Old Business**

**A. Hockanum River Trail Reports**

Refer to Arthur report and Vernon Greenway Volunteers report (attached) for details.

**B. Review of needs – Hockanum River Parks and Parking Areas**

- a. Dart Hill South to Lyman Bridge – OK
- b. Dart Hill North to WPC plant – trail on Sherman Arms – retaining wall needs attention
- c. Walgreen Corner OK
- d. Saxony Mill Park OK.
- e. Paper Mill Corner Park – ?
- f. West Main St - OK
- g. Tankerhoosen Dam (Phoenix St) - OK
- h. Rails to Trails – Rockville Spur – OK

**C. Current Projects – Status**

**A. Report from Friends HRLP on Grant for Bridge and Boardwalk**

**1. Suspended Bridge – Remaining tasks:**

- a. Landscaping: Completed
- b. Crosswalk and road signs: Completed by Vernon Public Works
- c. Signs: Ann received quote from Sign Connection for \$1162 for metal historical sign. Recognition sign also has to be drafted and installed. Ann will do.
- d. Video: Completed – Video is available on Town website home page.
- e. Future Management – VGV will take on the site; maps are updated.

**2. Pleasantview Boardwalks – Status**

Additional at-grade boardwalk is needed for about another 190 feet. Wetlands permit was received. Contract amendment is being processed by DEEP for additional \$14,000 and extension of time to July 1, 2020.

Remaining work: Plantings were completed by Jeff Hutton. The Pannier interpretive sign needs to be installed. A recognition sign needs to be ordered and installed also. Ann will get quote from Sign Connection. A kiosk had been planned for the site; Ann will look at funds to see if still feasible, or if Jeff Carlson would build another on a volunteer basis.

**3. Property Easements - Pleasantview to Manchester line: Ann reiterated that the DOT permit had been received. No further action on easements.**

4. Trail – Wendy’s to Manchester Line: George noted that a trail on the Circle Associates land would be very desirable, it’s a nice area on a small ridge close to the river with a view. A boardwalk would be needed for access. Committee agreed to meet in June at the site to evaluate. Ann will schedule.

5. Costs – As noted above, additional funds needed for 200 ft. additional boardwalk. Quote received from ORC, LLC for \$13,400.

**D. Report from Friends HRLP on CT Trail Census:** Don prepared a press release.

**E. Potential Projects and New Grant Applications:** No new applications, other than add-on to existing contract, above.

**F. River Protection: Actions, Public Education:** Ann updated Committee on some of the Sustainable CT projects being done by the Town.

### **3. New Business**

1. “Connectivity Grant” (19 Grove St) – Ann attended a kick-off meeting of the grant work and will keep the HRLP Committee apprised of progress.

2. Hockanum River Master Plan – Trail Needs Assessment

Ann distributed bound copies she had made of George’s report on status of the HRLP trails.

**4. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:05 am. Motion by George, second by Ginny.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ann Letendre, Chairman

### **ARTHUR REPORT**

**March 22 – May 24, 2019**

The Arthur March 16, 2019 updated HRLP status report I mentioned in the March 22 meeting was given to Ann for reproduction. It contained the original five Master Plan GIS segments (the map is on the wall in P&R office. The report also contained those same GIS segments as they are in 2019 on the ground. Pictures were also included. Some actions that might be necessary to complete the HRLP trail were also included.

The construction of a third wooden stile over another DOT wire fence by the I-84 overpass would make it possible to walk from Kelly Rd to the Manchester HRLP trail. The cost of wood would be \$80.

If the river is in flood stage, it would not be possible to walk on the following paths:

1. The red dotted path across the DOT dam in Figure 1.7 of report 3-16-19.
2. The former Golfland near I-84.
3. The river trail in the Wendy area is in very wet land. It is not usable at all when the river is in flood stage.
4. The river trail in the Giuletti property.

I am cutting a path from the parking lot by Free Spirit on Kelly Rd to connect to the existing trail path on TRI-City property.

The paths will need trail maintenance if they are approved.

I worked 62.5 HRLP hrs since Mar 22 and Brandon Gowdy did 34 HRLP hrs for community service.

## **Vernon Greenways Volunteers Report March 22 – May 22, 2019**

### Census Data 2019

Census monitor at Church Street checked for proper operation weekly.

The first of 5 two hour sessions of manual counts to develop an adjustment factor for the infrared counter at Church Street was accomplished on May 21 by John Horan and me.

### Spring Kickoff Meeting

Spring Kickoff Meeting signals the start of the season. It took place on May 2, 2019 at Camp Newhoca at 6:00 PM. Attended by 35. The program was as indicated in my March Report. We did sign up 3 new members. All 3 were interested in gardening and collectively agreed to adopt the planting at the suspended bridge.

### Darth Hill South and Dart Hill North Trail Map Revisions

Wording for adding on the David Smith Bridge (DHN) and trail to Ellington town line and the additional trail with boardwalk to Pleasant View Drive (DHS) has been completed and all maps being disbursed are up-to-date.

### Gardens Spring Cleaning

On May 8, 15 and 23 the spring cleaning to prepare the gardens to turn over to the Planting Adopters was accomplished at Washington Street, Phoenix Street, Elm Hill Road, Route30, the Suspended Bridge and Warren Avenue. We still have Center Road and West Street to do.

### Trail Maintenance Team

Coordination with Parks and Rec on when we can start the repair of the stone dust trails is in progress. My two civil engineers who lead the process are on board and we could start our once weekly evening outing as early as next week.

### Channel 3 WFSB 20 Town in 20 Days - Vernon

We had 13 people show to increase the crowd for this outing as requested by the town.